

BEFORE THE OFFICE OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE
DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA BOARD OF ELECTIONS AND ETHICS
FRANK D. REEVES MUNICIPAL BUILDING
2000-14th STREET, N.W., SUITE 420
WASHINGTON, D.C. 20009
(202) 671-0550

IN THE MATTER OF)	DATE: April 6, 2005
)	
James Aldridge)	DOCKET NO.: 04F-083
Housing Regulation Administrator)	
Department of Consumer & Regulatory)	
Affairs)	
313 Channing Street, NE)	
Washington, DC 20002)	

ORDER

Statement of the Case

This matter came before the Office of Campaign Finance (hereinafter OCF) Office of the General Counsel following a determination by its Public Information and Records Management Division, that pursuant to D.C. Code §1-1106.02 (2001 Edition), James Aldridge, Administrator (HRA), Department of Consumer & Regulatory Affairs, failed to timely file, a Financial Disclosure Statement for calendar year 2003, on or before May 15, 2004 as required by D.C. Official Code §1-1106.02, and also failed to file on or before the OCF sanctioned extended filing deadline of June 21, 2004.

By Notice of Hearing, Statement of Violations and Order of Appearance dated August 19, 2004, OCF ordered James Aldridge (hereinafter respondent), to appear at a scheduled hearing on September 3, 2004 and show cause why he should not be found in violation of the D.C. Campaign Finance Reform and Conflict of Interest Act of 1974, as amended by D.C. Official Code §§1-1101.01 et seq., and fined accordingly.

Summary of Evidence

OCF alleges that the respondent failed to timely file the statutorily required Financial Disclosure Statement for calendar year 2003, on or before June 21, 2004.

On August 31, 2004, respondent contacted the Hearing Officer to request the rescheduling of the September 3, 2004 hearing to September 1, 2004, due to vacation plans made on the scheduled hearing date. The Hearing Officer granted respondent's request. On September 1, 2004, the respondent appeared at the rescheduled hearing and testified that he believed that he filed OCF's Financial Disclosure Statement in a timely

IN THE MATTER OF: James Aldridge
Page 2

manner. Respondent presented a Form 35 (Confidential Statement of Employment and Financial Interests) as proof of the timely filing with OCF. Respondent stated that when he became aware that he had confused the two filing requirements, he immediately filed with OCF. Respondent filed a fully executed Financial Disclosure Statement with OCF on June 30, 2004.

Findings of Fact

Having reviewed the allegations and the record herein, I find:

1. Respondent is a member of the Management Supervisory Service.
2. Respondent timely filed the Financial Disclosure Statement for calendar year 2002 on May 15, 2003.
3. Respondent was required to file a Financial Disclosure Statement with OCF for calendar year 2003, on or before June 21, 2004.
4. Respondent filed the required Financial Disclosure Statement on June 30, 2004.
5. Respondent provided a credible explanation for the filing delinquency in that he confused the filing of Form 35 with OCF's Financial Disclosure Statement.
6. Respondent has no history of prior filing delinquencies.
7. Respondent is currently in compliance with the statute.

Conclusions of Law

Based upon the record provided by OCF, I therefore conclude:

1. Respondent violated D.C. Official Code §1-1106.02.
2. The penalty established at D.C. Official Code §1-1103.05(b)(3), and 3DCMR §§3711.2(aa), 3711.2 and 3711.4 for failure to timely file a Financial Disclosure Statement required by D.C. Official Code §1-1106.02 is a fine of \$50.00 per day for each business day subsequent to the due date.
3. In accordance with D.C. Official Code §1-1103.05(b)(3), the respondent may be fined a maximum of \$300.00 for failing to timely file a Financial Disclosure Statement.

IN THE MATTER OF: James Aldridge
Page 3

4. For good cause shown pursuant to 3DCMR §3711.6, the Director of Campaign Finance (Director) may modify, rescind, dismiss or suspend any fine.
5. Respondent's explanation for failing to timely file, coupled with a favorable filing history, constitute good cause for suspension of the fine.

Recommendation

In view of the foregoing and information included in the record, I hereby recommend that the Director suspend the imposition of the fine in this matter.

Date

Jean Scott Diggs
Hearing Officer

Concurrence

In view of the foregoing, I hereby concur with the Recommendation.

Date

Kathy S. Williams
General Counsel

ORDER OF THE DIRECTOR

IT IS ORDERED that the fine in this matter be hereby suspended.

Date

Cecily E. Collier-Montgomery
Director

SERVICE OF ORDER

This is to certify that I have served a true copy of the foregoing Order, by regular mail, on respondent on April 6, 2005.

NOTICE

Pursuant to 3DCMR §3711.5 (1999), any fine imposed by the Director shall become effective on the 16th day following the issuance of a decision and order, if the respondent does not request an appeal of this matter. If applicable, within 10 days of the effective date of this order, please make a check or money order payable to the D.C. Treasurer, c/o Office of Campaign Finance, Suite 420, 2000-14th Street, N.W., Washington, D.C. 20009.